

Rules and Regulations

Permitted activities - Permitted activities are allowed only in designated public use areas. Activities which are not specifically permitted are prohibited.

- Entry only during posted hours and only at Headquarters Area 20 mile bend and Hillsboro Recreation Area entrances. Closing times strictly enforced.
- Hiking, wildlife observation and photography in Public Use Area and on designated trails.
- Boating and canoeing in canals and Public Use Area except for Management Compartment and those areas marked as being closed to the public. U. S. Coast Guard, state, and refuge regulations apply.
- Sport fishing in canals and Public Use Area except for the Management Compartment C and those other areas marked as closed to the public. Only the use of rods and reels or poles and lines is permitted and must be attended at all times. State and refuge regulations apply. State license required.
- Waterfowl hunting by permit only in designated area. Hunt dates are concurrent with the State of Florida Waterfowl season. Special refuge regulations and permits apply. The refuge does not participate in the state early teal season.

For current information, call the Visitor center at 561/734-8303

For your safety

- Be prepared and observe regulations concerning: Posted hours, closed areas, fishing or hunting license requirements, boat registration, life jackets and other required safety equipment.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle.
- Allow time to return to your vehicle and leave the area before posted closing time.
- If canoeing or boating, carry insect repellent, drinking water, foul weather clothing and emergency light. If lost or disabled, stay with your boat and attempt to reach the main canal. Display emergency light after dark. Remember, floating vegetation and changing water levels can block canals and hide boat trails.
- On the bicycle trail, carry insect repellent, drinking water, and foul weather clothing.

- Alligators have a natural fear of humans. When they are fed they lose that fear and may become dangerous. Please, do not feed the alligators or any other wildlife.
- Observe the posted speed limits for your safety and for the safety of others and the wildlife.
- Contact refuge personnel for emergency assistance. The refuge emergency number is 561-936-4100
- Tell a relative or friend where you are going and when you should return.
- The refuge emergency number is 561-936-4100

Prohibited Activities

- Feeding, enticing or disturbing alligators or any other wildlife.
- Firearms or weapons of any type, except firearms for hunting purposes (a license is required and all regulations apply (see hunting regulations).
- Pets of any kind with the exception of retrieval dogs for duck hunting during the hunting season.
- Possession or use of trotlines, jugs, gigs, seines, cast nets or other fishing devices not described as permitted and commercial fishing of any kind.
- The taking of turtles, frogs and snakes by any means.
- Release of any wild or domestic animals.
- Taking or injuring any plant or animal other than legally taken fish or waterfowl.
- Bicycles, motorcycles, motor vehicles or ATV's of any type on levees. Bicycles are, however, permitted on the L-40 levee from the headquarter area to Hillsboro, which is a designated bicycle trail.
- Airboats, jet skis, wave runners, go devils, hovercrafts.
- Fires of any type, camping, night use or spotlighting.
- Entry into areas posted as closed.
- Swimming, water skiing, scuba diving, or snorkeling. Motorized watercraft on canoe trail. Parking in undesignated areas

Hunting Regulations

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administer the ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Waterfowl hunting is the only type of hunting permitted. It is by permit only and only in designated areas. Special refuge dates, times, and regulations apply. Each hunter is required to possess the following:
- A valid Florida hunting license.
- Valid Florida waterfowl permit (once sold as the state duck stamp).
- Migratory bird permit (a survey filled out when a state license is purchased free of charge).
- A valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp).
- An annual refuge permit specifically for waterfowl hunting on the ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (free of charge).
- The State Management Area Permit is not required for hunting on the refuge. Waterfowl hunting is allowed only in accordance with special refuge regulations. These regulations may vary from year to year and are outlined in the annual refuge hunting permit, which is available after November 1. You may visit, write, or call Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, 10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach, Florida 33437-4796, 561/732-3684, after November 1 to obtain your refuge permit. Camping is not permitted at any time on the refuge.

Fishing

- Sport fishing is permitted in canals and Public Use Area except for the Management Compartment C and those other areas marked as closed to the public. Only the use of rods and reels or poles and lines is permitted and must be attended at all times. State and refuge regulations apply. State license required.

Boating

- Boating and canoeing are permitted in canals and Public Use Area except for Management Compartment and those areas marked as being closed to the public. U. S. Coast Guard and state regulations apply. When boating, designate a driver. Operating or being in actual control of a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is a serious offense and can ruin a perfect day on the water